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Introduction and Conference Opening

*by Professor Henry T. King, Jr. **
Conference Co-Chairman

This is a very special conference. It is designed to explore in depth a subject of vital interest to participants from both sides of the border. We will do the broad strokes here and if indicated, we will move into further research to fill out answers to questions which may be raised at the conference.

The styling of our program is two dimensional. The speakers are from both sides of the border. Our conference participants are equally divided between Americans and our Canadian friends.

This will be a participatory conference. We have limited the number of participants so that there would be no reticence in questioning the speakers. The questions and answers will play an important role in flushing out the issues in this area and contributing to the success of the conference.

The conference has been styled to deal with the legal aspects of sectoral integration between the United States and Canada. But while this will remain a point of focus, our speakers will deal with other current related trade initiatives as well, such as a more comprehensive bilateral free-trade area. We are likely to see some changes in the current trade context between the United States and Canada, whether they be in the form of sectoral integration or otherwise. We want to look at the implications of these changes on both sides of the border.

Our conference plan is, we believe, logical. First with the Honorable Donald Macdonald and Bill Merkin, we will have an overview of possible changes in the current context. Bill Dymond will follow with additional comments from the Canadian Government standpoint. Fred Thompson will be commenting on integrating the non-traded goods sectors.

For reference points in evaluating current initiatives, we will look at the relevance of the EEC experience with the guidance of Professor Hans Smit. The historical precedent of the AutoPact will be seen through Philip Trezise and Simon Reisman, who negotiated it for their respective

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governments. After the reception and dinner sponsored by Sydney Harris, Canadian Consul General in Cleveland, we will take a look at the other side of the coin with Mel Watkins. He will give us the views of a Canadian opponent, both of sectoral integration and broadened free-trade with the United States.

On the second day, we shall begin in earnest to look at the legal context for further sectoral integration or a broadened free-trade area. First, we shall look at the legal implications of these initiatives in terms of their relationship to the external obligations of both parties. We will do this through the eyes of Donald deKieffer and Frank Stone. Our luncheon speaker, Carl Beigie, will focus on the macroeconomic context within which alternative Canada-United States trade arrangements will be discussed over the medium term future.

We will then look at how federal laws in both countries impact on these initiatives. Peter Suchman and Bob Latimer will be our guides in this context. Then we will take a look at how the laws and practices of the states and provinces affect these initiatives. Earl Fry and Jack Quinn will help chart our course there.

On the final day of the Conference, we will be concerned with the implementation of a new Canada-United States trade agreement. Alan Wolff and Frank Stone will be our guides then. Following that we will have a wrap-up session in which I will be your discussion leader. This is an ambitious program, but one of great significance, as we explore the implications of a closer relationship between the two trading partners with the largest cross-border trade in the world today.

Before introducing our first speaker, I want to extend my thanks to the William H. Donner Foundation for its support of this conference. We have also had wonderful support from Sydney Harris, the Consul General for Canada, and his staff, especially Odyll Wittman, General Relations Officer, as well as from Tony Halliday of the Department of External Affairs of Canada. On the U.S. government side, Bill Merkin has been extremely helpful.

We have had excellent support at Case Western Reserve Law School from Dean Ernest Gellhorn, which we very much appreciate. Finally, I want to extend our special thanks to David Meany, a student at the Law School, who worked with me on the conference and on the compilation of the conference materials.

Cleveland, Ohio
April 19, 1985.